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COUNTRY Greece

SUBJECT Withdrawal of Young  
from Populist Party

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ORIGIN  
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 letter of 16 October 1978 from the  
 Director of Central Intelligence to the  
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 Next Review Date: 2008

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SUPPLEMENT

**SOURCE**

1. A young royalist group in Parliament controlled by Spyros Markezinis plans to withdraw from the Populist Party to form a new party, which to date is unnamed. This announcement is to be made when Parliament reconvenes on 16 January. The group's opposition is based on an objection to the old-line policy of the elder group and also to preserve bargaining power in the event of a new government. Tsaldaris is seeking to avoid a breach by an offer of more important offices in the Government.
2. Markezinis controls 10 members of Parliament and may have 25 followers, including a dissatisfied group under the control of Stragos, who has been holding conferences with Venizelos. It is believed that Markezinis has the King's approval in this move.

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